[Lord WOODHALL Reporter.]

BILL of ADVOCATION,

Robert Dundas of *Arniſton*, Eſq; Lord Advocate, *Margaret* Lady *Blantyre*, Dame *Margaret Hamilton*, Lady *Jean* and *Margaret Leſlies*, Mr. *John Swinton junior*, Advocate; *James Robertſon-Barclay*, *David Anderſon*, *Alexander Robertſon*, and *Robert Grant*, Writers to the Signet; *Thomas Foggo* Merchant, *Katharine Lawſon*, Relict of *William Lawſon*, *Eſther Stewart*, Relict of *John Bodie* Merchant, Mr *Alexander Robertſon* Miniſter, *Frances Scott*, Relict of Dr *Scott*, *Alexander Arbuthnot* Merchant, *John Downie*, *Katharine Pyper*, *James Baillie* Writer, *Alexander Allardice*, *Martha Maitland*, *Iſabel Stirling*, *William Purves*, *Gabriel Peter*, *John Murdoch*, *James Thomſon* Writer, *John Woddrop* Writer, *John Brown* Merchant, *Margaret Thomſon*, Relict of *John Thomſon* Writer, *James Thomſon* Merchant, *John Thomſon* Writer, for the Managers of St *Andrew*'s Chapel, all Heritors and Poſſeſſors of Houſes in *Carrubber*'s Cloſe, or in the Neighbourhood, Sufferers, or who were in great Danger of ſuffering by the Fire in *William Reoch*'s Wright-ſhop upon the 12th of *Auguſt* 1758;

AGAINST

The ſaid *William Reoch* Wright.

MY Lords of Council and Seſſion, unto your Lordſhips humbly mean and ſhew, your Servitors, *James Robertſon-Barclay* Clerk to the Signet, *David Anderſon*, alſo Clerk to the Signet, and others, Subſcribers of the Petition after inſert, That, upon the 16th of *Auguſt* 1758, we and theſe Subſcribers preſented a Petition and Complaint, whereof a juſt Copy, and Deliverance thereon ſaid Day, follows.

"*Unto*

" *Unto the Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt, Dean of Guild,*
" *Bailies, and Town-council of the City of* Edinburgh,

" The PETITION of the Proprietors and Poſſeſſors of
" Houſes hereto ſubſcribing, Sufferers, or who were in great
" Danger of ſuffering by the Fire on *Saturday* the 12th cur-
" rent, in the Workhouſe of *William Reoch* Wright, at the
" Foot of *Carrubber*'s Cloſe,

" *Humbly ſheweth,*

" THAT, by the Situation of the ſaid *William Reoch* his
" ſaid Workhouſe, which was and behoved to be cloſe
" ſurrounded by our ſaid ſeveral Dwelling-houſes, many of
" them have periſhed, and the reſt were, with the utmoſt Dif-
" ficulty, and the quickeſt and greateſt Attention, ſaved. That,
" for ſundry Years paſt, we have been frequently in immi-
" nent Danger from Fire kindling within, or upon this very
" Workhouſe. And truly it is quite impoſſible, from its par-
" ticular Situation, and the Quantity of Wood and combuſtible
" Things of all kinds kept therein, and Number of Perſons
" employed at all Times in the Day, and ſometimes in the
" Night, to prevent Fire, ſometime or other, kindling there-
" in, let the Proprietor or Maſter thereof be ever ſo careful;
" and when ſuch Fire is once fully kindled, it is equally im-
" poſſible for any human Art to prevent its ſpreading. We
" have Reaſon to think, that nothing but divine Providence has
" averted the Danger from moſt of us till *Saturday* laſt; and that
" nothing leſs than the ſame Providence did then avert it from
" many of us. The Deſolation and Miſery which has thereby
" been brought on Numbers of poor Perſons, and even thoſe in
" ordinary Circumſtances of Life, eſpecially the Widows and
" Fatherleſs; the real Damage done to thoſe in better Circum-
" ſtances; the Terror thereby occaſioned to all, both in this
" Neighbourhood, and at a Diſtance, and indeed to moſt of
" the Town; the real Danger attending all, and the great Suf-

" ferings

" ferings of ſome, (who ſo dextrouſly and diligently exerted
" themſelves in, and thereby miraculouſly accompliſhed the
" ſtopping this Fire, after having ſpread ſo far, from going
" much further), is ſo fully known to, and muſt be ſo ſenſibly
" felt even by your Honours and all others, though in a leſſer
" Degree than by us, makes it unneceſſary further to de-
" ſcribe it.

" This Fire begun, at leaſt appeared to us to begin, betwixt
" Nine and Ten o'Clock in the Morning, when there was little
" or no Wind; both Accidents, and very happy ones, for us, as
" well as many others. But as this was allenarly accidental, it
" might have, in the common Courſe of Things, equally chanced
" to happen, either in the dead Hour of Night, or when the
" Wind blew high, and even both. Our Situation, as it did
" happen, was, and is deplorable: But had the Caſe been, as
" it thus might have happened, we, or moſt of us, and Fami-
" lies, and all that is dear to us, muſt have inevitably periſhed
" in the Flames, without a Poſſibility of any previous Warning
" thereof, and left to others the Trouble of making this Appli-
" cation: And we can ſolely attribute it to the ſingular Provi-
" dence of God, that we thus have eſcaped ſo imminent a Dan-
" ger, and thereby in Life, to make the Application ourſelves.

" As your Honours are the Guardians of us, and all others
" reſiding here, and Superintendents of the Police of the City
" in every reſpect, we are adviſed, that to you it does belong to
" receive this Application. And as you are endowed with all the
" Qualifications of Knowledge and Virtue ſuitable and neceſſary
" for ſo high and uſeful Stations, we do expect that you will
" give proper Regard thereto; and which is now made to your
" Honours, as we do underſtand Mr *Reoch* does propoſe imme-
" diately to rebuild or refit this very Place, that was the ori-
" ginal Cauſe of our former Fears, and of the dreadful Conſe-
" quences that have at length enſued, into a Building of the ſame
" Kind, and to the ſame Uſe as formerly; which if he is allow-
" ed to do, we are juſt where we were ſome Days ago; and

" muſt either ſubmit to live in perpetual Terror, and at length
" may probably be burnt, or leave our Properties and Dwelling-
" houſes to be uninhabited; as neither we, nor none who re-
" gards Life, can be ſuppoſed will ever ſubmit to dwell in
" them.

" However, we put ſuch Confidence in your Honours Ju-
" ſtice, not only towards us, but to all other after Poſſeſſors of
" theſe our Tenements, that you will put the only, and really
" effectual Stop to theſe our juſt and dreadful Apprehenſions,
" by properly and immediately diſcharging Mr *Reoch*, and all o-
" thers having an Intereſt in the Area of the Houſes thus poſſeſſ-
" ed or belonging to him, lately burnt, from building any
" Houſe or Houſes thereon, fit to be uſed for the Purpoſe of a
" Wright, or Wright-yard, or any other Purpoſe whatever at-
" tended with Danger to the Neighbourhood; and for that
" End you will immediately diſcharge the lodging or working
" any kind of Timber there, which we this Moment only un-
" derſtand was this very Day begun; no doubt with a View to
" prepare the ſame for rebuilding this fatal Workhouſe, before
" we are aware thereof, or have Time for making this Applica-
" tion for ſtopping the ſame. And indeed it muſt occur to
" your Honours, on viewing the Place, and examining proper-
" ly into the real Cauſe of this ſo diſmal an Accident, and the
" many former Alarms we have got through Fear of ſuch, (all
" which we deſire your Honours will properly and attentively
" do), that there is no Space of Ground within the whole City,
" which is ſo dangerouſly ſituated for the Accommodation of a
" Wright's Shop and Yard, as this is.

" The Petitioners ſhall only further add, that this Applica-
" tion is made from no Diſlike to Mr *Reoch* as a Neighbour,
" but only from the imminent Danger attending us by his car-
" rying on his Profeſſion ſo near us; on the contrary, we feel
" and commiſerate with him for his Loſſes amidſt our own,
" and ſhould willingly wiſh for any Opportunity of alleviating
" them, (this Particular applied for excepted); wherein if he

" equally

" equally feels for us as we do for him, he certainly will excuſe
" us.

" The Honourable Dean of Guild will alſo excuſe us for ma-
" king our Application to your Honours alongſt with him, as
" he will eaſily ſee, and may be aſſured, it was out of no Diſ-
" reſpect to him, or Diffidence in his Capacity, or Willingneſs
" to do us Juſtice by an Application to him alone, but ſolely
" that we are adviſed, and do apprehend, a Matter of ſo great
" Conſequence juſtly merits the attentive Conſideration and
" ſpeedy Execution of proper Orders thereanent, by the Autho-
" rity of all thoſe intruſted with the Protection of the Lives and
" Properties of thoſe living under your Care, and with the Di-
" rection of the general Police of the City.

In reſpect whereof, &c.

[*This Petition was ſigned by all the Perſons whoſe Names are in the Title of the Bill of Advocation.*]

" *Edinburgh*, *Auguſt* 16. 1758. The Council having conſi-
" dered this Petition, they remit the ſame to the Dean of Guild
" and his Council, that Mr *Reoch* may have an Opportunity of
" anſwering the Petition; and in the mean time appoint the
" Dean of Guild Officer to put a Stop to the Work till the Dean
" of Guild Court ſhall adviſe the Petition and Anſwers. And
" the Dean of Guild Officer being called in, this Order of
" Council was intimate to him, that he might immediately put
" a Stop to the ſaid Work in terms thereof."

That, in conſequence of this Deliverance, Mr *Reoch* deſiſted from bringing in and working Timber for that Day; but next Morning, or at leaſt betwixt and Mid-day, we were not a little ſurpriſed to find his Workmen juſt begun to work at the very individual Work he was thus diſcharged from, and a Stop put to, the Day before, by the Authority of a Court whereat he was preſent, and whereof he is a Member, as preſent Deacon of the Wrights of *Edinburgh*: That upon this we immediately preſent-

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ed a Petition to the Dean of Guild of *Edinburgh*, ſetting forth what is before ſtated; and therefore craving the Dean of Guild would give us Redreſs againſt this Contempt of his Authority, and put ſome effectual Stop to Mr *Reoch*'s Conduct, by diſcharging him from thus bringing in Timber and working the ſame in the aforeſaid Area: That, to our ſtill greater Surpriſe, the Dean of Guild then declined, and ſtill declines, and even refuſes to meddle in this Matter. By all this your Lordſhips will eaſily ſee what a diſmal Situation we, as Suitors before this Court, anent ſo intereſting a Caſe, are in; and how much worſe, and even beyond Remedy, we would be, if we had not your Lordſhips Juſtice to apply to, and protect us; ſince now, without your Lordſhips Interpoſition, Mr *Reoch* may, and really does intend to go on in erecting this Building, as formerly, or for an Uſe equally dangerous; ſince, by ſo doing, he cannot more plainly counteract the Order given, than by what he has already done; which it is evident we cannot oblige him to obtemper, without the Aid of your Lordſhips; and which we do expect your Lordſhips will give us without Delay, in the only effectual Manner, namely, by advocating the foreſaid Petition and Complaint, from the ſaid Court or Courts; who, by their Procedure, muſt convince your Lordſhips, they have not only done us, but this whole City, great Iniquity, by not only delaying, but even refuſing, to do immediately, and without all Delay, what evidently is their Duty. HEREFORE, we beſeech your Lordſhips for Advocation of the Premiſſes, in common Form; and that you would pleaſe grant Warrant, for ſtopping in the mean time the ſaid *William Reoch*, and all others, from rebuilding upon the foreſaid Area, any Wright-ſhop, Ware-room, or Workhouſe, or any other Houſe or Houſes whatever, that may endanger the Neighbourhood; and for ſtopping the bringing in thereto, or working therein any Kind of Timber whatever, or uſing it as a Timber or Wright's Yard, under ſuch Penalty, or in whatever Manner your Lordſhips ſhall think proper. According to Juſtice, and your Lordſhips Anſwer.

JA. ROBERTSON-BARCLAY.